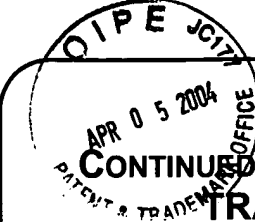


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Image CE/2856

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HDP/SB/30 (10-01) based on PTO/SB/30

 <b>REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL</b> Address to: Mail Stop RCE Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	<b>Application Number</b>	10/065,616
	<b>Filing Date</b>	November 4, 2002
	<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Trevor J. DAVIS et al.
	<b>Art Unit</b>	2856
	<b>Examiner Name</b>	Andre JACKSON
	<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	8564-000026/US

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. **Submission required under 37 C.F.R. 1.114**

a. ☒ Previously submitted

i. ☒ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 previously filed on JAN 29, 2004  
 (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).

ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_

iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

b. ☒ Enclosed

i. ☒ Amendment/Reply

ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)

iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

iv. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Miscellaneous**

a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(l) required)

b. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Fees** The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 08-0750

i. ☐ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(e)

ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. 1.136 and 1.17)

iii. ☒ Other Any deficiency for a fee required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17.

b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$ 1,190.00 enclosed

c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

**WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.**

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED			
<b>Name (Print /Type)</b>	Gary D. Yacura	<b>Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)</b>	35,416
<b>Signature</b>	<i>by G. Yacura (41,646)</i>	<b>Date</b>	April 5, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as express mail in an envelope addressed to: Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below:			
<b>Name (Print /Type)</b>		<b>Express Mail Label No.</b>	
<b>Signature</b>		<b>Date</b>	

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Attorney Docket No. 8564-000026/US

**IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT(S): DAVIS, et al. CONF. NO.: 4206  
APPL. NO.: 10/065,616 ART UNIT: 2856  
FILED November 4, 2002 EXAMINER: JACKSON, André K.  
ENTITLED: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR EXAMINING  
OBSTRUCTED WELDS

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

April 5, 2004

April 4 = Sunday

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the FINAL Office Action dated November 4, 2003 ("Action"), the Advisory Action dated March 11, 2004 ("Advisory Action"), and in connection with the concurrently filed Request for Continued Examination ("RCE") in the above-identified patent application, the Applicants respectfully contend that the following amendments to the claims are sufficient to overcome each of the pending rejections and place the application in form for allowance. The sections included in this preliminary amendment are as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on **page 2** of this paper; and  
a **Remarks** section begins on **page 13** of this paper.

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